



# HOUSE DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

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## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:**

**Newspapers Agree with Florida House Democrats...**

**REPUBLICANS CRAFTED A BAD ELECTION BILL  
THAT WOULD STIFLE VOTING AND IS AN EXAMPLE  
OF POWER POLITICS AT ITS WORST**

**Florida House Democrats stand with dozens of state and  
national groups that have objected to Republican attempts  
to suppress the vote.**

### **Florida House Democrats say:**

- The Legislature should make it easier for citizens to vote instead of stifling citizen activism and participation in elections.
- Shame on Republican legislators for trying to suppress the vote with a self-serving rewrite of elections law that failed to stand up under scrutiny!
- Embarrassed by the exposure of their self-serving power grab, Republicans now must accept a severe neutering of **House Bill 7149 (formerly known as PCB EDCA 09-08)**.

Read what news organizations have written about the Republican voter-suppression legislation:

- *Orlando Sentinel*, April 23, 2009

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/orl-editorial-voting-assault-042309,0,4626719.story>

**“The Republican majority has sucker-punched Floridians with a last-minute plan that would throw new obstacles in the path of citizens registering to vote, casting their ballots and amending the state constitution.”**

- *Ocala Star-Banner*, April 22, 2009

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20090422/OPINION/904221001/1008/OPINION?Title=-65279-65279-Embarrassed-on-elections-again>

**“The thinking behind this bill is inexplicable.”**

- *The New York Times*, April 18, 2009

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/opinion/19sun2.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=elections,%20florida&st=Search](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/19/opinion/19sun2.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=elections,%20florida&st=Search)

**“Florida legislators should not need a court to tell them not to interfere with the right to vote.”**

- *St. Petersburg Times*, April 19, 2009

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/article993149.ece>

**“Republican legislative leaders have lost all sense of shame with their 11th-hour bill to roll back voting rights in Florida.”**

- *The Miami Herald*, April 21, 2009

<http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/story/1009469.html>

**“The sweeping rewrite of Florida's election laws by the Republican majority last week is a flagrant example of power politics at its worst.**

**Here we have legislation authored in secrecy and haste, which has been bereft of meaningful public input or comment.”**

- ***SUN Newspapers (Southwest Florida)***, April 24, 2009

<http://www.sunnewspapers.net/articles/edStory.aspx?articleID=436162>

**“There is every reason to increase Florida’s efforts to extend the voting process and make it as accessible to as many people as possible.”**

- ***The Gainesville Sun***, April 23, 2009

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090423/OPINION01/904231015/1076/OPINION?Title=Editorial-A-bad-election-bill>

**“This legislation is shadowy and shameful.”**

- ***Daytona Beach News-Journal***, April 22, 2009

<http://www.newsjournalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Opinion/Editorials/opnOPN40042109.htm>

**“This legislation is especially puzzling because Florida, after a long history of troubled elections, had seemed to finally get it right. There were very few problems with the 2008 election -- and neither House nor Senate version of the legislation would solve 2008's biggest problem: Long lines at early-voting stations around the state, which forced many voters to wait for hours to cast their ballot.”**

- ***(Sarasota)Herald Tribune***, April 21, 2009

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20090421/OPINION/904211031/2198/OPINION?Title=Why-rush-to-change-election-laws-Legislature-should-shelve-a-troubling-costly-bill>

**“Why? How did such relatively low-priority legislation manage to squeeze itself into a session that is already hard-pressed for time to grapple with such essential issues as tax reform and renewable energy policy? What is driving the ill-advised election measure?”**

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